

Kenneth Washburn
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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Please recognize the importance of competition in our society, this is not just for internet providers but for all aspects of service. With the current trend towards ever expanding conglomerates we are getting closer to monopoly control with no protection for customers. One of the most important mandates of the FCC and one of the reasons for the 1996 Telecommunications Act is to support competition and safeguard the customer, not to remove those safeguards in the interest of the large corporations.

Competition not only creates alternatives, but also pushes innovation and creativity. With limited choices in service we do not see this necessary innovation and we are stuck with the price points dictated by one of two providers. The increase in costs that this would produce would be detrimental to our small business, competitive access to the internet and phone service is critical to us, we currently receive this from our local service provider and cannot afford the price hikes that come with monopoly control.

Please do what is right for the country and not what is demanded by the large corporations.

Sincerely yours,
Kenneth Washburn

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